

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Gary R. Keough, State Statistician, New England

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

Volume 33, Number 23

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

September 30, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/29/13

PHENOMENAL FIELDWORK CONDITIONS

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending September 29, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 6 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. The week saw fairly consistent and seasonal temperatures throughout the week. Morning fog protected crops from frosts on coolest nights. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 4 degrees below normal to less than 1 degree above normal. Rainfall this week was limited to northeastern Maine as the other five New England states received less than a tenth of an inch in average. Average precipitation across the six states ranged 0.02 to 0.53 inches.

FRUIT: It was an ideal week for pick-your-own orchards thanks to beautiful fall weather last week. Crops harvested included apples, grapes, pears, raspberries, and the remaining peaches and plums. Apples were large, plentiful, and of good quality. Cranberry harvest in Massachusetts was fully underway; fruit color was reportedly good.

VEGETABLES: Farm stands continued marketing a wide array of summer and fall vegetables. Harvest of warm-season crops, such as tomatoes and sweet corn, was winding down for the season. Farmers kept busy irrigating vegetable crops, disking, cleaning up harvested fields, planting cover crops, hoeing weeds, and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Powdery mildew and other diseases were present in pumpkins and winter squash as a result of wet conditions throughout the growing season.

FIELD CROPS: Farmers took advantage of extended dry week and actively harvested crops, cleaned up fields, and spread manure. The corn silage harvest was in high gear last week, making up for lost time earlier in September. Wet conditions this summer were ideal for the spread of Northern Corn Leaf Blight, a disease blamed for declines in yield on many fields throughout Northern New England. The disease may return next growing season if conditions permit, so preventive measures are encouraged. Farmers focused on cutting dry hay and made good progress, but heavy dew and foggy conditions slowed the drying process at times. Potato harvest in Aroostook County, Maine was highly active thanks to schools in recess and extended dry weather. There were less reports of rot than anticipated with promising yield expectations despite wet weather throughout the growing season.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	10	4	9
Adequate	82	72	71
Surplus	8	24	20
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	8	3	11
Adequate	85	78	71
Surplus	7	19	17

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	55	60	60	Average	Avg/Above	Good/Exc
Peaches	100	100	100	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	75	75	80	Average	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	5	10	15	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	95	100	100	Fair/Good
Oats	90	100	99	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	45	45	40	Exc/Good
Mass	70	50	75	Good
Rhode Island	60	60	75	Good/Exc
Field Corn	50	50	50	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	99	95	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	99	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	70	75	75	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics Service

Prepared By AWIS.com from NWS preliminary data

For the Period: Monday September 23, 2013
 To: Sunday September 29, 2013

WEEK CUM PRECIP

STATION	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
-----	--	--	--	--	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	-----	---	INCHES	-----	---
MAINE														
Augusta State A	43	71	55	+0	2222	+194	926	+180	0.39	-0.38	2	7.38	+4.48	14
Bangor Intl Arp	41	73	55	+1	2062	+213	821	+199	0.22	-0.55	2	4.90	+1.70	13
Bethel	37	74	53	-2	1909	+89	702	+106	0.16	-0.61	1	4.45	+1.32	11
Caribou Municip	38	75	53	+4	1763	+329	594	+216	1.50	+0.74	2	6.78	+3.56	14
Dover-Foxcroft	40	74	53	+2	1890	+316	696	+244	0.60	-0.31	2	4.48	+0.84	13
Frenchville	41	73	51	+3	1532	+199	460	+137	1.16	+0.35	3	3.89	+0.45	11
Houlton	35	73	52	+2	1725	+227	581	+157	1.14	+0.37	3	4.80	+1.43	14
Livermore Falls	39	72	53	+2	1892	+349	709	+280	0.19	-0.59	1	4.17	+0.83	13
Moosehead	37	71	51	+1	1638	+336	527	+217	1.01	+0.17	2	3.99	+0.59	15
Portland ME	38	71	56	+0	2242	+363	952	+315	0.11	-0.66	1	6.72	+3.84	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	40	72	52	-2	1999	+336	763	+287	0.08	-0.62	1	4.13	+1.17	12
Berlin AG	40	71	50	-3	1922	+255	691	+194	0.16	-0.55	1	4.38	+1.32	12
Concord	38	75	56	+2	2448	+419	1086	+347	0.00	-0.63	0	4.81	+2.20	6
First Conn Lake	35	71	50	+1	1590	+484	508	+303	0.22	-0.63	1	4.37	+0.62	14
Keene AG	39	76	55	-3	2327	+46	1018	+105	0.00	-0.63	0	6.45	+3.66	9
North Conway	39	72	53	+0	1989	+117	737	+104	0.04	-0.76	1	5.04	+1.84	13
Rochester	41	72	54	-3	2282	+95	974	+124	0.08	-0.69	1	5.97	+2.98	11
VERMONT														
Bennington AP	34	71	51	-4	2313	+537	1002	+450	0.00	-0.84	0	3.56	+0.03	10
Burlington Intl	40	74	55	+0	2658	+501	1252	+411	0.00	-0.70	0	4.77	+1.69	12
Island Pond	40	74	50	-2	1817	+449	646	+321	0.22	-0.48	1	5.06	+1.92	16
Montpelier	40	71	52	-2	1969	+277	735	+223	0.00	-0.63	0	4.27	+1.59	12
Rochester	38	75	53	-2	1970	+289	755	+251	0.00	-0.84	0	2.93	-0.61	11
Rutland AG	37	72	51	-7	2068	-185	831	-60	0.00	-0.76	0	2.76	-0.57	9
Springfield VT	39	73	54	+0	2305	+470	987	+391	0.00	-0.77	0	2.98	-0.27	10
Sutton	39	72	51	+1	1771	+395	613	+276	0.10	-0.62	1	4.82	+1.63	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan In	47	73	60	-3	3011	+344	1524	+317	0.02	-0.68	1	2.21	-0.64	8
Fitchburg	41	75	58	+4	2946	+1109	1471	+873	0.00	-0.67	0	1.58	-1.14	10
Greenfield	40	74	54	-6	2528	+66	1155	+116	0.00	-0.77	0	3.81	+0.62	10
New Bedford	40	74	56	-7	2687	-21	1274	+31	0.23	-0.50	1	2.33	-0.83	10
Otis AFB	39	72	54	-6	2470	+280	1113	+257	0.04	-0.80	1	2.57	-0.58	9
Plymouth	41	73	56	-3	2751	+510	1339	+444	0.18	-0.73	1	1.21	-2.62	9
Walpole	40	73	57	-1	2770	+528	1335	+449	0.01	-0.83	1	2.88	-0.58	9
Chicopee/Westov	35	75	55	-7	2726	-105	1321	-6	0.00	-0.77	0	3.05	-0.24	8
Worthington	31	71	51	-5	2019	+200	816	+241	0.00	-0.84	0	4.28	+0.86	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	43	74	59	-3	2976	+434	1497	+381	0.01	-0.76	1	4.48	+1.23	9
Woonsocket	42	74	57	+1	2835	+627	1388	+544	0.00	-0.84	0	4.24	+0.70	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	44	73	60	-4	3085	+333	1597	+300	0.00	-0.70	0	2.71	-0.16	6
Hartford/Bradle	41	75	57	-3	2988	+288	1516	+286	0.00	-0.84	0	3.35	-0.19	7
Norfolk	39	68	51	-4	2165	+351	921	+348	0.00	-0.91	0	2.82	-1.03	8
Thomaston Dam	37	72	54	-5	2612	+416	1269	+435	0.00	-0.91	0	2.04	-1.71	9
Willimantic	38	74	56	-2	2791	+548	1346	+479	0.00	-0.91	0	2.17	-1.49	9

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 29, 2013

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2013. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS

home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				P R E C I P I T A T I O N			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN DAYS
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
ME	32	75	53	+0	0.00	2.57	0.53	-0.25 2
NH	22	76	53	-1	0.00	0.49	0.06	-0.64 1
VT	29	77	52	-2	0.00	0.22	0.04	-0.66 1
MA	31	76	55	-3	0.00	0.48	0.06	-0.72 1
RI	42	74	58	-2	0.00	0.05	0.02	-0.75 1
CT	37	76	56	-4	0.00	0.19	0.02	-0.78 1

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Another dry week with abundant sunshine was great for harvesting crops, cleaning up fields, and spreading manure. Early in the week, we received several notifications that the top half of fruit on pear trees had suffered damage from earlier excessive rains. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn silage harvest is 60 percent complete. Decorative items are selling well at farms and farmers markets, as October looms. Several corn mazes and Haunted Barnyards are active as consumers shift from summer food to Halloween fun. **Jude Boucher (EXT), Tolland:** Nice weather for harvesting on the farm and a beautiful weekend for farmer's markets and fall events. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Sunny, dry week. Corn chopping, spreading manure, and putting cover crops on fields. Baling hay. Picking squash, pumpkins, peppers, sweet corn and more. Harvesting grapes. Pick your own apples. Good weather for field work.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: The weather has finally dried up. The timing was perfect as school is out. Potato harvest is in full swing. There are less reports of rot than we anticipated. Yields appear to be above normal. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Didn't harvest on Monday and Tuesday due to receiving over 1 inch of rain. Harvest resumed the rest of the week with sunshine and temps in the 70's. Weather forecast for next week looks good and some farmers will be done harvesting their crop. Potato crop going in storage looks good. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Another great weather weekend for pick your own apples. Dry sunny days and cool nights, perfect fall weather. Corn silage is being harvested, grain content is reported light. Everyone is going to the fair! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Silage corn being harvested is very good in this area. The stalks are large and grain is maturing well. The warm weather should help the grain corn and soybeans finish well. Still some hay coming in. The fields are finally drying out for harvest. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Great week for harvesting corn silage, potatoes and remaining crops. Field conditions are dryer and spreading of manure is underway. Harvest is close to completion on most crops for this year. Upcoming weather is predicted to be dry so harvest of fall crops will be in high swing. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Fields are starting to dry out. Farm stands are in full fall mode with pumpkin, squash and corn stalk displays. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Corn silage harvest in full swing. Nice week. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Weather data from May 2013 through mid week last week indicates that this area received 27.1 inches of rain - which is 10.39" above average rainfall totals. Producers who were unable to harvest dry hay during that period, have been harvesting over the last two weeks and are reporting a loss of quality and production, since only one cut could be harvested in many cases. Although some areas are wetter than normal, the past week has been a great catch up week for hay and many producers are continuing to harvest silage corn. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage proceeds with decent weather this past week. Manure going back out on grass fields. Apple harvest has gone extremely well.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: The week's temperatures were fairly consistent with highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. No rain events for the week. Soil moisture is low for the time of year and some crops are being irrigated. Macoun, Cortland, and Jonagold apples are being picked. Both cool season and heat loving crops are still being harvested. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Excellent weather for harvesting fall crops and applying a cover crop on harvested fields. Harvesting apples, raspberries, corn silage, hay, pumpkins, mums, cabbage, potatoes, and

many more fall crops. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberry harvest is fully underway. Fruit color is good and frost tolerance temperatures are decreasing. Early Black fruit size is average or less but fruit numbers are holding up as is fruit quality overall for most growers.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Another good week for harvesting hay. Following the heavy rain on Saturday, September 22 we had a dry, sunny week with daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s and nighttime temperatures mostly in the 40s. No overall frost yet. The producers who were able to plant field corn early this year have begun harvesting but there is still quite a bit of corn in the fields awaiting harvest. U-Pick apple operations had a good weekend. Fruit and vegetable operations and farm stands are winding down for the season. There were mixed results for vegetable producers this year with some producers experiencing very heavy losses on vine crops due to rainy weather. **Olivia Sounders (Ext), Carroll:** Stretch of good weather has allowed farmers to spread fall lime and begin to clean fields. Farmers Markets are starting to slow in some cases, even though supplies are still high. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Another bright, sunny week. Great drying weather, and some farms getting last bits of dry hay in, others working on 3rd or 4th cut haylage or baleage. Lots of corn got chopped, and some farms are finished for the season. Veggies continuing to taper off, with fall crops on offer at farm stands and farmers' markets. Another phenomenal weekend for PYO apples. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn silage harvest continues, seeing a little more on better side of maturity at this point. Some haylage/hay as conditions permit. Cool and fairly dry for this time of year. Morning fogs along Ct. River holding back frosts which have been more prevalent on east side of county. Autumn colors looking pretty good now. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 28th, we had no rain! Corn harvesting was in high gear on many farms. Other producers were making haylage and if possible hay. heavy dew and foggy conditions often lasted until late morning, which slowed the drying process for hay makers. Yield tests on corn throughout the county showed significant declines in yield on many fields. The culprit appears to be Northern Corn Leaf Blight. The wet conditions of this past summer created ideal conditions for the disease to take hold. Corn Yield losses on some fields were in excess of 50%. Other fields showed lower levels of loss, and most fields had some level of infection ranging from minor to significant. The disease overwinters in the stubble and debris, so the possibility of recurrence next year is high if we have wet conditions. Cooperative Extension Service recommends selecting seed sources that are resistant to the disease. Call Cooperative Extension at 787-6944 for further guidance. Powdery Mildew and diseases (brought on by wet conditions) are affecting yields on pumpkins and squash. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Another fantastic weekend for farm stands and Apple Pick-Your-Own operations. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Peach harvest is completed and fall raspberry harvest continues. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetable continues. Irrigating crops that have not been harvested. Farmers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussels Sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Warm-season crops (like tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and beans) harvest is almost completed. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing. The second and third cuttings of hay and hayage continues. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Mainly a sunny and dry week with cooler nights. Some warm season crops still being harvested. Pumpkins,

winter squashes, apples pears and plums are harvested. Cleaning harvested vegetable fields. Spreading lime and some manure. Apple harvest in full swing. Great weekend for PYO. Catching up with haying. Chopping field corn.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We had a very good weather week last week. It looks like another dry week this week. Corn silage is being harvested, and it is one of the nicest crops we have seen in a long time. It is a little bit slow because it is not fully matured yet. By this time normally, more than 50% is harvested. Potatoes are doing well. Most of the early potatoes have been dug. Within the next week or two we will start putting in winter potatoes in storage. Pumpkins were planted late, in the last week of June and first week of July. They have great size to them believe or not, and nice color. Still a few green ones out there, but they will color up. They are starting to harrow the fields that have been harvested already, and seeded to rye and this will continue through the month of October. Still an abundance of small vegetables and sweet corn around. I think they are better now than this summer. People are out apple picking now and it is in full swing!! Apples

are probably one of the best crops this year for size and availability. Cows are still on pasture. Pastures are fair and have to be supplemented with feed for animals. I hope we are all working next week.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn silage harvest continues, Haylage and dry hay harvest last of crop. Manure spreading on corn and hay fields. Lime applications, soil testing. Soil still dry on clay soil, fall subsoiling. Planting cover crops after corn silage harvest. No corn grain harvest yet. Soybeans drying down. Still lots of variable field maturity in corn and soybeans with some fields mature and some fields just tasseling now. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Corn harvest is in full swing here in Franklin County. Weather is fantastic providing for great harvest conditions for plants, machinery and producers. Weather is getting the urban sector out to the apple orchards and fall farmers markets. Pumpkins are great this year and will be the next feature with October, Halloween and waiting for the "Great Pumpkin" right around the corner.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

Gary R. Keough, *State Statistician*

Hernan Ortiz, *Statistician*